

Suicide Statistics for Scotland

Update of trends to 2015

Publication Date – 10 August 2016

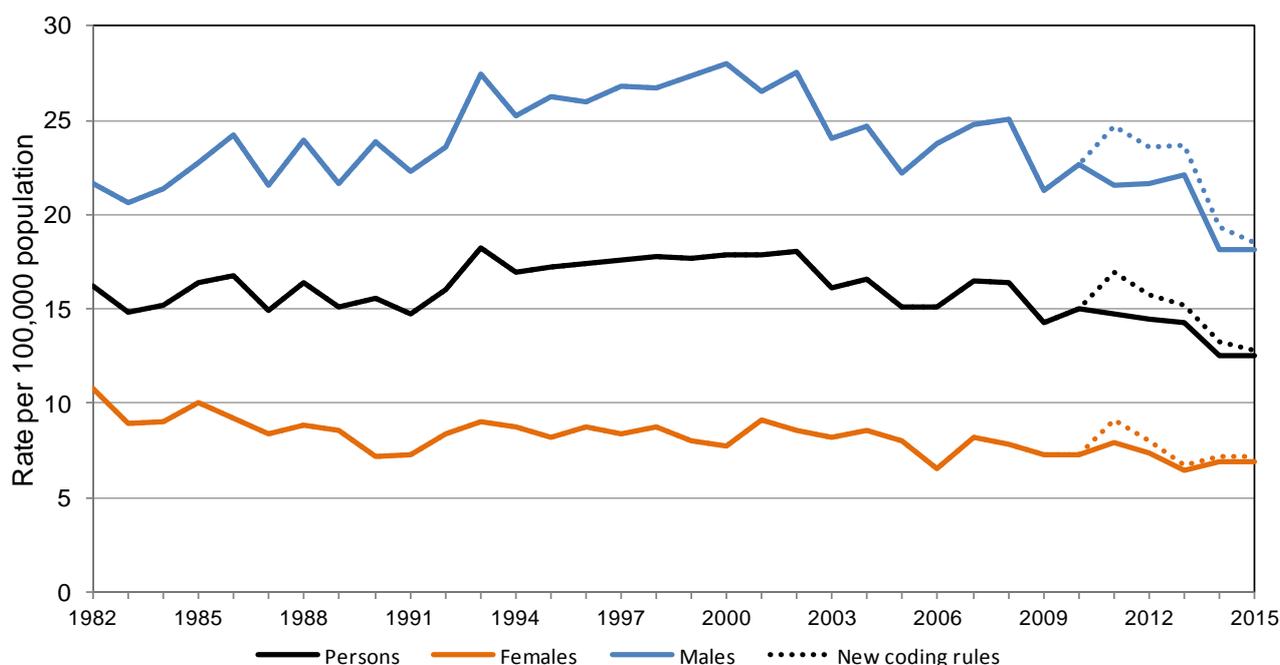
About this release

This is the annual update of suicide statistics on the Scottish Public Health Observatory website. It is based on information on deaths from suicide registered in Scotland in 2015. The publication is released in parallel with the release of the 2015 suicide statistics by National Records of Scotland.

Main Points

- There were 672 probable suicides registered in Scotland in 2015, down from 696 in 2014.
- In 2015, the probable suicide rate for males was more than two-and-a-half times that for females.
- Between 2011 and 2015, the probable suicide rate was more than three times higher in the most deprived areas compared to the least deprived areas.

Standardised rate of probable suicide in Scotland, 1982-2015



- While probable suicide rates are strongly related to deprivation level, this difference or inequality has decreased between 2001-05 and 2011-15.
- Although Scotland appears to have had a higher suicide rate than the UK overall since the early 1990s, this comparison is influenced by differences in data recording practices between countries.
- The suicide rate in Scotland is similar to the rate in other European countries.

Background

'Probable suicides' refers to deaths from intentional self-harm and events of undetermined intent. The latter category includes cases where it is not clear whether the death is a suicide; however it is understood that the majority of deaths of this type are actually suicides, so they are included here.

In 2011, [National Records of Scotland](#) changed their coding rules for certain causes of death. Some deaths previously coded under 'mental and behavioural disorders' are now classed as 'self-poisoning of undetermined intent' and consequently are classified as suicides. Comparing the suicide numbers for Scotland using the old coding rules, there were 656 in 2015 and 659 in 2014.

[The Scottish Government's suicide prevention strategy 2013-2016](#) sets out key areas of work to reduce the number of suicides in Scotland.

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Further Information

The publication and supporting information can be found on the [Scottish Public Health Observatory website](#). A [technical paper](#) describing the data and methodology used in this release is also available.

An in-depth investigation into the demographics and prior healthcare contacts of people who died by suicide in Scotland is available in the report [A profile of deaths by suicide in Scotland 2009-2014](#).

ISD and Official Statistics

Information Services Division (ISD) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. ISD is designated by legislation as a producer of 'Official Statistics'. Our official statistics publications are produced to a high professional standard and comply with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. [Further information about our statistics](#).

ScotPHO

The Scottish Public Health Observatory (ScotPHO) collaboration is led by ISD Scotland and NHS Health Scotland, and includes the Glasgow Centre for Population Health, National Records of Scotland and Health Protection Scotland. Our aim is to make public health information more accessible and usable to improve health and reduce inequalities in Scotland.